Appendix V.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 708 asked by Sri S. Lazar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 11th March 1959, page 16 supra.]

(a) The extent of paddy crops affected by pest in October and November 1958 in Lalgudi taluk :—7,650 acres in October 1958 and 6,160 acres in November 1958.

(b) The following measures were taken to fight this menance : Pesticides and insecticides were distributed free of cost as well as at concessional rates on a large scale. The Agricultural field staff and entire Block staff were engaged in controlling the pests and diseases in pest affected areas. The Agricultural Extension Officer, Plant Protection Assistant, Fieldmen, Maistries, and Gramasevaks visited each and every village and gave advice to the ryots to treat the affected crops by pesticides. Spraying demonstrations were conducted in all the villages and explained to the public.

The following quantities of pesticides were distributed to the public during October and November 1958 :—

	October 1958.		November 1958.	
	Mds.	Lb.	Mds.	Lb.
Pesticides ..	136	67	35	74
Folidol ..	246 tubes.		108 tubes.	
Endrex ..	60 gallons.		46 gallons.	

In addition to the above, large quantities of pesticides were purchased from private firms by the ryots themselves.

One hundred and twenty-one sprayers received from Central Pool, Tiruchirappalli, 30 sprayers from Deputy Director of Agriculture, Tanjore and 20 Block Sprayers were fully engaged in the control of pests. In all 171 sprayers were fully engaged in the control of pests.

(c) There is no proposal to provide every District Agricultural Officer with 200 sprayers for hiring to ryots.

(d) A scheme for the supply of sprayers and dusters to ryots at half cost was initiated in 1957–58 with the object of enabling the ryots to own their own sprayers and dusters. The scheme is being continued. Besides the stock of sprayers held by the District Agricultural Officers in the Agricultural Depots, each of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, has been supplied with 100 sprayers and 100 dusters as a reserve stock for use in their regions in case of emergencies.

(e) There is no proposal to award any prize to officers who have taken prompt action for the effective control of the pest.